

is needed. This is why I along with Senator CORNYN proposed an amendment, No. 2446, to the Defense Authorization Act, S. 1042, asking the Department of Defense to develop this action plan. I am pleased to see this amendment has been adopted unanimously by the Senate.

The United States historically has lost manufacturing sectors as product cycles matured but our innovation system always filled that void by creating new sectors, opportunities, jobs and higher standards of living. I want to see that trend continue, and this amendment asks the Department of Defense to form a sound plan in this technology area.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENERGY PRICES

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, we have come from a Commerce-Energy Committee joint hearing with the CEOs of the major energy companies. They came to talk to us about the price of energy.

I made the point this morning—I know the Presiding Officer was also there and made the points she wished to make—as we go into the winter season, those who are trying to figure out how they afford home heating fuel, natural gas, propane, and so on, take a look at the newspapers and see the highest profits in history for the oil companies. They are the ones, the consumers, who will have to bear the pain. Heat your home in the winter or try to figure out how you are going to pay the fuel bill in the spring if you are a farmer or a rancher. These prices are going to eat away all the profit that existed, and then some, with respect to family farmers in my State. That is according to estimates that come from the farm organization and from economists who have looked at it.

The question for family farmers who are being ripped by these energy prices or people who drive to the gas pumps or people who are figuring out how to heat their homes is, Is anybody going to do anything about it? You have all the gain on this side and all the pain on this side. All the gain with the big energy companies, the big oil companies, the major integrated oil companies, bigger, stronger, with more raw muscle power in the marketplace because of block buster mergers, and all the pain on the other side, the consumers.

Especially in a State that is an agricultural State where we rely on family farmers as a significant part of our economic base, knowing that those family farmers operate on a thin margin,

knowing that they are trying to figure out how to pay energy costs going into spring planting and fertilizer costs and so on, knowing that it is going to wipe away any net profit they would have, any opportunity for a net profit next year, they are saying to this Congress: Talk is cheap. What are you going to do? Will Congress take some action? Will Congress take action to ease the pain and provide some fairness and restore fairness? I hope so.

I won't go into great detail about the action I think we should take. I have done that many times on the floor with respect to a Windfall Profits Rebate Act, to rebate to consumers a portion of these profits.

My hope is that in the shadow of the hearings we held today, Congress will be ready to take some action with respect to energy price issues.

FIRING OF DAVID GUNN

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I have received a press statement, issued moments ago, from the Amtrak National Rail Passenger Corporation board of directors. Four members on the board of directors represent membership appointed by the President. Two of them are recess appointments not given the stamp of approval by the Senate. The four members of the board of directors at Amtrak this morning decided to fire David Gunn, president of Amtrak.

David Gunn is not anybody's crony. He happens to be an appointment that is smart, tough, with experience in the area. He has run Amtrak like a true champion. He ran afoul of the White House when the White House decided they wanted to shut down Amtrak, shut down long-distance trains and effectively get rid of Amtrak.

David Gunn was the president of Amtrak. He and others fought to maintain rail passenger service and fought to persuade this Congress to fund Amtrak. The administration recommended zero funding for Amtrak. The Congress didn't agree. So the Congress funded Amtrak in a manner that would allow it to continue to be a national rail passenger system. Apparently, David Gunn doesn't measure up to the White House, and so they got the board of directors this morning to fire him. Incidentally, two of the recess appointments on the board of directors, one from New Jersey, one from Florida, will have some kind of rail passenger service no matter what happens to Amtrak. All those folks who live on the east coast, from Boston to Florida, they probably are always going to have a train running down that little strip on the eastern seaboard. I can understand these two members of the board, neither of whom were confirmed by the Senate, both of whom were given recess appointments by the President and cannot continue beyond this Congress, I can understand if the President or somebody in the White House said: Let's get rid of this David Gunn. They

say: That's all right because even if we get rid of Amtrak, we will have rail passenger service on the east coast.

I wish to say what a horrible mistake it was for the board of directors of Amtrak to do this. I understand where it came from. It came from the White House. It came from the Secretary of Transportation. I understand meetings were held in recent days, and the decision was made. That decision was carried out by the President's board of directors.

I am saying this: A national rail passenger system, Amtrak, is beneficial to this country. In my State, 100,000 people used Amtrak last year. Many of those people don't have alternative transportation opportunities. Yet when Amtrak, the Empire Builder, in this case, runs from Chicago to Seattle, 100,000 North Dakotans have used it. It is an important part of our Nation's transportation system. But there is a disagreement about Amtrak. The President wants to shut it down. He doesn't want it. That is why he proposed no funding for it. The Congress, the majority from his own party, said: No, we want to fund it. We believe Amtrak advances this country's transportation system. We believe it is worthy, something we should do.

The president of Amtrak, David Gunn, is a first-rate executive. He has experience. He has done a great job. I say that as a member of the committee that authorizes Amtrak, so I have watched this enterprise. I have spent time with Mr. Gunn. I have spent time with Amtrak officials. I know what is happening there. This guy is nobody's crony. As a result, he gets fired.

The "you are doing a great job, Brownie stuff," I am sick of that. I would like to see people who are qualified to run things running things in this Government. They had one running Amtrak. Today he gets fired because somebody got their nose out of joint and decided, apparently, the Congress won't allow us to shut down Amtrak so we will fire the president of Amtrak.

It is a big mistake for the country. I don't know how others in Congress will react, but for me, this is a setback and a setback for those who care about rail passenger service. It was a travesty to treat David Gunn, an executive who came out of retirement to run Amtrak and who did a first-rate job, this way. Shame on those who made that decision. This is all about politics. It has nothing to do with performance. I thought, especially in the wake of what happened with Hurricane Katrina, maybe we would get back to performance and decide that when people know how to do things and organize well, they are appreciated. That is not the case with respect to the decision by the board of directors at Amtrak this morning.

Those of us who feel that way probably won't have a chance to overturn this because the board of directors made the decision coming from the

Secretary of Transportation, coming from the White House, I guess. But I still think it is a setback for the country. I hope others know it as well.

NATALEE HOLLOWAY

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss an issue that has troubled me for many months, and that is the disappearance of an Alabama teenager, Natalee Holloway, from the island of Aruba. Most people have heard about this. It has been in the news for months.

More than 5 months ago, on the early morning of May 30, Natalee Holloway disappeared from the island of Aruba. Since the start of the investigation into Natalee's disappearance, I, along with others, have been deeply troubled by the process that has taken place in Aruba. From the outset, there has been miscommunication and misinformation from the Aruban Government. The investigation has been plagued by inconsistencies and conflicting information, calling the integrity of the investigation itself into question. Since Natalee's disappearance, a number of suspects have been arrested, detained, and released without the benefit of any substantive information regarding her disappearance.

I have made no secret of my concern regarding the handling of this case and the careless and inappropriate manner in which it appears the evidence has been handled. Nevertheless, I continue to believe that without the will of Natalee Holloway's mother, Beth Twitty, Natalee's disappearance would not have received the level of scrutiny in Aruba and around the world we have witnessed.

It is disturbing that so many months have passed with no clear answers regarding the circumstances surrounding Natalee's disappearance. To that end, I joined Alabama GOV Bob Riley and others yesterday to call for a boycott of Aruba. Today, I call upon my colleagues to join me in that call.

I understand this is a drastic measure, but I believe that we as Americans, along with others around the world, should carefully weigh our travel options until the Government of Aruba exhibits a good-faith effort to solve this case.

For the safety, security, and well-being of our citizens, I do not believe we can trust that we will be protected while in Aruba. Quite frankly, if this can happen to Natalee Holloway, a teenager from my home State of Alabama, it could happen to any of us. That is why I believe a boycott is the answer. I hope the American people, when they think of traveling to the Caribbean this winter, will look at other options.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT JASON A. FEGLER

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of

U.S. Army SSG Jason A. Fegler. Staff Sergeant Fegler died November 4 in Baghdad, Iraq. He was 24 years old.

Staff Sergeant Fegler grew up in rural Banner County, NE, and graduated from Banner County High School in 1999. He served more than 4 years in the U.S. Marine Corps before recently transferring to the U.S. Army. He had hopes of joining the Army's Special Forces. Staff Sergeant Fegler was a member of Company C, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, KY. Staff Sergeant Fegler will be remembered as a loyal soldier who had a strong sense of duty, honor, and love of country. Thousands of brave Americans like Staff Sergeant Jason Fegler are currently serving in Iraq.

Staff Sergeant Fegler is survived by his wife, Shianne, who is in the U.S. Navy, and their son, Aiden, 2, of Virginia Beach, VA. He is also survived by his mother and stepfather, Rita and Eugene Snyder of Harrisburg, NE; and father, Jim Fegler of Sierra Vista, AZ. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this difficult time. America is proud of Staff Sergeant Fegler's heroic service and mourns his loss.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring SSG Jason A. Fegler.

CAPTAIN JOEL CAHILL

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of U.S. Army CPT Joel Cahill. Captain Cahill died of wounds suffered on November 6, while on patrol in Ad Dawr, Iraq. He was 34 years old.

Captain Cahill graduated in 1989 from Papillion-La Vista High School in Nebraska. Captain Cahill graduated magna cum laude in 1999 from the University of Nebraska-Omaha, where he was a member of the ROTC program. He was a 15-year military veteran and in the midst of his fourth tour of combat duty, having served one tour in Iraq and two tours in Afghanistan. In 1998, he was awarded the Soldier's Medal for selfless action in a noncombat situation. A live grenade accidentally landed next to Captain Cahill's men during training at Fort A.P. Hill, VA. Captain Cahill grabbed the grenade and hurled it out of harm's way, saving the lives of his fellow soldiers. Captain Cahill was a member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Benning, GA. Captain Cahill will be remembered as a loyal soldier who had a strong sense of duty, honor, and love of country. Thousands of brave Americans like CPT Joel Cahill are currently serving in Iraq.

Captain Cahill is survived by his wife, Mary, a U.S. Army nurse, and their two children, Faith, 4, and Brenna, 3, of Columbus, GA. He is also survived by his mother and father, Barbara and Larry Cahill of Gretna, NE; sister, Erin Christensen; and brothers Larry Jr., Randy and Jason. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this difficult time. America is proud of

Captain Cahill's heroic service and mourns his loss.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring CPT Joel Cahill.

FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, on November 1, the Committee on Foreign Relations conducted a business meeting to consider several matters.

The motion to report the nomination of Roland Arnall to be U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands failed on a 9-to-9 tie. The chairman then ruled that the nomination was ordered reported by an 8-to-2 vote, which reflected the vote of those physically present.

With all respect to my friend and chairman, Senator LUGAR, I disagree with his ruling, which negated the proxy votes cast by me and several of my colleagues; I believe it to be inconsistent with the rules of the Committee on Foreign Relations. So that the record of the proceedings at the meeting will be available to all members, I ask unanimous consent that the relevant portion of the transcript of that meeting be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

BUSINESS MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, U.S. SENATE NOVEMBER 1, 2005

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:32 p.m. in Room S-116, The Capitol, Hon. RICHARD G. LUGAR [chairman] presiding.

Present: Senators LUGAR [presiding], HAGEL, CHAFEE, ALLEN, COLEMAN, VOINOVICH, ALEXANDER, SUNUNU, MURKOWSKI, and SARBANES.

Senator SARBANES. First of all, on the point about filing lawsuits to delay the nomination, there are a number of individual suits that have been brought regarding some of these matters. I don't premise the position I'm taking on that.

I think in effect a screening process has been done by the State attorneys general, and therefore I think it raises the issue to a much higher level, that these State attorney generals are considering bringing charges in this instance.

Mr. Arnall asserts that his motto is to do the right thing. That's what we're trying to get him to do in this instance. He owns this company. It's privately held. We had testimony from people that were at the company telling about how intimately he was in its activities, how much he's essential to the sort of direction and the drive, the vitality of the company.

He does have an impressive life story and I alluded to that in the course of the hearing and said as much.

But you've got a real problem here in terms of these practices, and Mr. Arnall ought to resolve this matter in my opinion before he goes off to the Netherlands in order to assume this ambassadorship.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, the committee will now vote on the nomination. I will ask the Clerk to call the roll.

Ms. OURSLER. Mr. Hagel.
Senator HAGEL. No.
Ms. OURSLER. Mr. Chafee.
Senator CHAFEE. Aye.
Ms. OURSLER. Mr. Allen.
Senator CHAFEE. Aye.